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# CURRENT LITERATURE.

## BOOK REVIEWS.

### North American Flora.

SUCH is the title of the most extensive systematic work hitherto undertaken in America. It is to contain all plants growing without cultivation in North America, which includes Greenland, Central America, Republic of Panama, and the West Indies, except Trinidad, Tobago, Curaçao, and other islands off the northern coast of Venezuela, whose flora is essentially South American. The work is published by the New York Botanical Garden, with Professors L. M. UNDERWOOD and N. L. BRITTON as the committee in charge. The names of the advisory committee are ATKINSON, BARNES, COULTER, COVILLE, GREENE, HALSTED, and TRELEASE.

The plans for such a publication have been under consideration for a number of years, and such large cooperation has been secured that there is every assurance of a completed work within a reasonable time. The plan includes the publication of thirty volumes, each to contain four or five parts; and in this way any part of any volume can be published as soon as it is ready. The volumes are assigned as follows: 1. Mycetozoa, Schizophyta, Diatomaceae; 2 to 10, Fungi; 11 to 16, Algae; 14 and 15, Bryophyta; 16, Pteridophyta and Gymnospermae; 17 to 19, Monocotyledones; 20 to 30, Dicotyledones.

The first fascicle has been issued recently,<sup>1</sup> dated May 22, 1905. Its typographical appearance gives abundant evidence of the great care that has been exercised in the selection of type and the arrangement of material. For example, the order with each species is the name and citation, description, type locality, distribution, and illustrations. The contents are as follows: J. K. SMALL gives a description of the order Rosales and a key to its twenty-four families; G. N. NASH presents Podostemonaceae, with five genera and ten species; N. L. BRITTON and J. N. ROSE contribute the Crassulaceae, occupying the bulk of the fascicle, twenty-five genera being recognized (*Oliveranthus*, *Corynephylum*, *Cremnophila*, *Sedastrum*, and *Tetrorum* being new) and 284 species (twenty-nine being new); P. A. RYDBERG presents Penthoraceae, with its single genus and species, and Parnassiaceae, the single genus containing thirteen species, four of which are new.

The New York Botanical Garden and American botanists are to be congratulated upon the inception of this great work.—J. M. C.

<sup>1</sup> North American Flora. Vol. 22. Part 1. Rosales, JOHN KUNKEL SMALL. Podostemonaceae, GEORGE VALENTINE NASH. Crassulaceae, NATHANIEL LORD BRITTON, JOSEPH NELSON ROSE. Penthoraceae, Parnassiaceae, PER AXEL RYDBERG. 8vo. pp. 80. New York: The New York Botanical Garden. 1905. Subscription price \$1.50 for each part.